SENATE FISH AND GAME
EXHIBIT NO. 1
DATE 3-7-13
BILL NO. HB 360

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Paul Fielder, I am a retired wildlife biologist and I would like to speak to this bill based on my experience in both fisheries and wildlife. When I first started working for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, I was involved with a pheasant relief site, experiences there directly relate to this. I had a bird dog that used to bring me back pheasants that were released and I never fired a shot. The birds that are released often times are disoriented and they can't survive right when their released. One situation, one of my partners was going along this side hill and releasing the pheasants from the side hill road and into the valley below and he released this one bird and as it was flying out there, he noticed this coyote underneath down in the valley running along underneath the pheasant and as the pheasant kept waving it's feathers and wings and getting lower, the coyote kept jumping up until he finally plucked it out of the air. So, that's not giving these release birds much of a chance. When I worked for a hydro-power company we dealt a lot with fisheries and it's common practice in fisheries after you handle fish you put them in an acclamation pond or holding tank or something like that and we even had specific periods of time that we had to hold them before we could release them back into the streams. So what this bill is doing is using a state of the art technique of holding an acclamation of times and periods to allow these animals to return or be put into the environment in their best physical shape. Close confinement is being transported in transplant cages and the handling causes a lot of stress on animals. Some species is causes a lot more stress than others. With mountain goats there is even a disease called capture myopathy, the muscles in the body, actually back hindquarters start to deteriorate. So this bill by allowing the animals to be held in confinement after their transported before their released will assure that the animals are released in the best physical state.